

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SSC-01 OMB-01 EB-07 AGR-05 /084 W

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R 131630Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6777

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

GENEVA PASS AG ATTACHE AND MTN DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EC, ECON, FR

SUBJECT: STATE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE DENIAU RE-  
PLACED IN FRENCH CABINET CHANGE

REF: A) PARIS 0940; B) A-109, MARCH 7, 1975; C) A-188,  
MARCH 22, 1974.

1. AMONG THE MINISTERIAL CHANGES ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT  
GISCARD D'ESTAING ON JANUARY 12 (REF A) WAS A REPLACE-  
MENT OF JEAN-FRANCOIS DENIAU, STATE SECRETARY FOR AGRI-

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CULTURE, BY PIERRE MEHAIGNERIE, A CENTRIST PARTY DEPUTY  
FROM BRITTANY. RETAINING HIS POST WAS MINISTER OF

AGRICULTURE CHRISTIAN BONNET, ALSO FROM BRITTANY AND A MEMBER OF GISCARD'S INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PARTY.

2. THIS CHANGE MARKED THE FOURTH TIME IN LESS THAN 2 YEARS THAT DENIAU HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN CABINET CHANGES. ON MARCH 1, 1974 HE WAS APPOINTED STATE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AT A TIME WHEN NOW PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC LEFT AGRICULTURE FOR INTERIOR, WHEN DIFFICULT EC AGRICULTURE PRICE NEGOTIATIONS WERE ALREADY UNDER WAY. THE NEW MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE MARCELLIN HAD NO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE, AND THE GOF NEEDED THE EXPERIENCE OF FORMER EC COMMISSIONER DENIAU. HE WAS NOT REAPPOINTED IN GISCARD'S CABINET AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN MAY. HOWEVER, DENIAU WAS REAPPOINTED TO THE STATE SECRETARY POST AT THE END OF JANUARY 1975 AT A TIME WHEN AG MINISTER BONNET HAD BEEN IN ILL HEALTH FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

3. THE NEW STATE SECRETARY MEHAIGNERIE IS A YOUNG DEPUTY (AGE 36) ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN MARCH 1973. HE WAS IN THE CABINET OF AG MINISTER DUHAMEL IN 1969-71 IN CHARGE OF PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS. THE SON A BRETON FARMER AND LONG-TIME DEPUTY, HE HAS TWO DEGREES IN AGRICULTURE AND IS MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN.

4. ANOTHER CABINET CHANGE AFFECTING AGRICULTURE IS A NEW POST, STATE SECRETARY FOR AGRIBUSINESS (INDUSTRIE ALIMENTAIRE.) NAMED TO THE POST WAS A UDR (GAULLIST PARTY) DEPUTY FROM PARIS, JEAN TIBERI (AGE 40), WHOSE PRINCIPAL EXPERIENCE IS IN GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATION. GISCARD DECLARED IN A TV INTERVIEW THAT THIS NEW POST WAS CREATED BECAUSE FRANCE, AS THE LARGEST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER IN WESTERN EUROPE, NEEDED TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT OF ITS FOOD INDUSTRIES.

5. COMMENT: DENIAU WAS APPOINTED STATE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE IN EACH OF THE PAST TWO YEARS TO BOLSTER AG MINISTERS WHO WERE AT THAT TIME IN ILL HEALTH AND ALSO LACKED NEEDED EXPERIENCE IN EC NEGOTIATIONS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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AGRICULTURE SUPPORT PRICES (REFS B & C.) THIS YEAR HE HAS BEEN REPLACED ON THE EVE OF 1976-77 NEGOTIATIONS BY A MAN WITH AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND, BUT APPARENTLY NO EXPERIENCE IN EC PRICE NEGOTIATIONS. DENIAU IN JANUARY A YEAR AGO WAS ALSO APPOINTED TO HEAD A MISSION TO MAKE A MEDIUM AND LONG TERM STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY. THIS STUDY DUE TO BE PUBLISHED LAST JUNE, HAS NEVER BEEN RELEASED, AND REPORTS ARE THAT SOME GOF OFFICIALS AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS WERE DISSATISFIED WITH ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** EAGR, ECON, FR, EEC, (DENIAU, JEAN-FRANCOIS)  
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